



Resident **DHC** News

1301 E. Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan, 48207 • (313) 877-8000

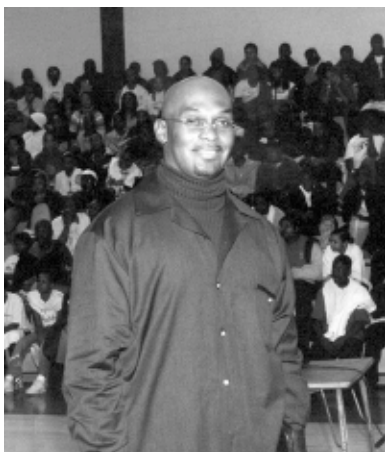
John Nelson, Jr., Executive Director • John W. Hurt, Deputy Executive Director

Spring 2002

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“Martin” Star Tommy Ford Highlights Winterfest 2002 Conference

DHC’s Division of Youth Development hosted its Third Annual Youth Leadership Conference titled “Bright Minds - Bright Futures, Winterfest 2002” on Friday, March 1 at Northern High School in Detroit. “Martin” star **Tommy Ford** delivered the keynote address. Detroit’s First Lady of Comedy “Coco” served as emcee.



Tommy Ford addressed over 400 conference participants at Northern High School

In addition to speakers, conference participants attended workshops on topics such as peer pressure, household drama, teen violence, sexuality, financial responsibilities, drug awareness, law enforcement, and music and fashion.

Contributing partners included the Detroit Housing Commission’s Division for Youth Development, City of Detroit Youth Department, Friends of Parkside, Save our Sons and Daughters, DHC’s Housing Support Section, Jobnet, Michigan Institute for Non-Violence Education (MIENE), Detroit Youth Opportunity Movement (YO!), Detroit Police Law Enforcement Explorers, City Year, Don Bosco Hall, Corporation for Artistic Development, Detroit Public Schools Safe and Drug Free Schools, WJLB - FM 98, River Rouge Housing Commission, and Blane Smith and Associates, Inc.

DHC maintains an ongoing program of youth activities. For more information on the program contact the Youth Development Division at 877-8600.

DHC Makes History: Public Housing Residents Elected To Both Top Board Positions

Betty Scott Elected President
Carol Mayes Elected Vice President

The Detroit Housing Commission made history on February 7, 2002 when it elected **Betty Scott** and **Carol Mayes** to the offices of President and Vice President of the Board of Commissioners. This marks the first time that any housing authority has elected residents to the top positions.



John Nelson, Jr., DHC’s Executive Director, hands the President’s gavel to new Commission President Betty Scott

“I’m still Betty” Commission President **Betty Scott** said after her election. Ms. Scott is a retired nurse who retired early after undergoing open heart surgery. Her nursing career at St. Joseph and Henry Ford Hospitals included service as a Union Steward for AFSCME Local 79. She has been a resident at Sheridan II for the last 17 years and has seen many changes in public housing including “how it was, how it went down, and how it is coming back.” She appreciates the progress that DHC has made in improving its housing stock in recent years. “We still have a long way to

See “Annual Plan,” Page 3

DHC Senior Corner

Harriet Tubman: The site participates in Food and Friendship, Focus Hope and Meals on Wheels programs. Eye and foot doctors will be available at Harriet Tubman as well as Forest Park, State Fair and Warren West pending completion of the approval process. Computer classes to help seniors use the Internet are also pending.

Sheridan Place I: This site operates a breakfast program and participates in Focus Hope and Meals on Wheels. Pending the approval process, physical therapy services and a beauty shop will be provided on site.

Sheridan Place II: Focus Hope and Meals on Wheels services are provided. St. John's Riverview Hospital continues to provide medical services and information to Sheridan I and II residents.

State Fair: DHC hosts Food and Friendship, Meals on Wheels, and Focus Hope programs. Eye and foot doctor services are pending the approval process.

Warren West: DHC hosts Food and Friendship, Meals on Wheels, and Focus Hope programs. Eye and foot doctor services are pending the approval process.

Calendar of Events

Black College Tour
-- March 31 - April 7

1047 E. Canfield
-- May 25, 2002
9 AM - 3 PM

Resident Advisory Board Meetings
First and Third Tuesday's

WAYS (Work Alternatives for Youth and Seniors) Begins Monday, June 24, 2002
For more information contact Carolyn Williams at 877-8600

Summer Employment Job Fair
Charles C. Diggs, Jr. Community Building

Annual Plan

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Program Planning, Purchasing and Modernization Divisions. The Commission highlighted its development plans for the next five years which include major renovations at Conner Waveney, Sojourner Truth, State Fair, Jeffries East and HOPE VI projects at Woodbridge Estates, Herman Gardens, and Parkside, as well as complete site renovation at Charles Terrace. The Annual Plan is submitted to HUD to monitor management plans of public housing authorities.



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City Of Detroit

Kwame M. Kilpatrick, Mayor
Jackie L. Currie, City Clerk

Detroit City Council

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Kenneth V. Cockrel, President Pro Tem
Alonso Bates
Sheila Cockrel
Barbara Rose Collins
Kay Everett
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Detroit Housing Commission

John Nelson, Jr., Executive Director
John W. Hurt, Deputy Executive Director

DHC Board of Commissioners

Betty Scott, President
Carol Mayes, Vice President
Steven Flum
Lisa Webb Sharpe
Leona Stallworth

AFFIX
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DHC Senior Housing Available

DHC is presently accepting applications for senior housing. U.S. citizens age 62 and older who meet income requirements are eligible. For more information or to receive an application call (313) 877-8728.



Executive Director's Column

Dear Resident,

The Detroit Housing Commission is poised to continue making progress in its public housing program in the year 2002.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently approved our Master Development Agreement for Woodbridge Estates. We will build the best HOPE VI mixed-income community in the country there. The development plans call for 743 on-site units with additional off-site home ownership units. The HOPE VI plan at Woodbridge Estates will provide not just housing but futures for our residents who will be able to invest in their own homes through our home ownership program.

We will continue to make progress at our other sites as well. Plans are being developed for complete gut renovation at Conner Waveney. Over the next five years we plan to finish Parkside and completely build anew Charles Terrace and Herman Gardens. We have scheduled major renovations for State Fair, Sojourner Truth and Jeffries East as well. Renovations are scheduled at our other sites too so that we can maintain high quality living environments.

I look forward to developing a high standard of housing at the Detroit Housing Commission's properties so that our residents can live and raise their families in excellent living environments.

John Nelson, Jr.



John Nelson, Jr.

Home Ownership Program Offers Opportunities For Scattered Site Residents

Scattered site residents can sign up to participate in DHC's Scattered Site Home Ownership Program. Participants receive a variety of support services including home repair and credit counseling training courses. To date, six residents have purchased their own



Top from left to right, **Monique Smith, Esq.**, DHC Staff Attorney; **Rita Dickerson**, Home Ownership Program Administrator; **Christopher Tyler**; **Evelyn Tyler** (seated - new home owner,); **Falisia Tyler**; and **John Nelson, Jr.**, DHC Executive Director. Below, **Janet Gields** is a former resident who purchased her home through the Scattered Site Home Ownership Program.

homes through the program. "Our goal is to provide participating residents with the support they need to become successful homeowners," said **Rita Dickerson**, Program Administrator for the program. For more information contact Rita at (313) 877-8082.



Annual Plan Public Hearing Highlights DHC's Development Plans

The Detroit Housing Commission held its Annual Plan Public Hearing at the Coleman Young Municipal Center on Thursday March, 7. The meeting featured presentations from the Section 8, Finance, Operations, See "Annual Plan," Page 4

Black College Tour Essays List Expectations

High school students participating in DHC's Black College tour were required to submit essays on their expectations of college as part of the application process. The following are excerpts from two of the essays.

"College is a lifetime guaranteed. College guarantees you a great successful future, if you don't let any obstacles get in your way. College is what is going to make me successful. And since I am an ambitious person, college is for me. College is the key to success. The way to be successful in life is by going to college. College holds the greatest power for success. College holds a greater power of success than a high school diploma can hold. College is a challenge to see how far you are willing to go to succeed. You are testing yourself, your abilities."

-Nahweh Andrews, Frederick Douglass Homes

"College is about meeting new people in diverse cultures. You learn that by opening your mind to other ways of life you learn about new things. College is also a way to unify with your own culture to see how you can help each other succeed."

-Ashley Smith, Scattered Sites

Residents Elected

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go," she said, "but it keeps getting better and better each day." In addition to her service as President of the Board of Commissioners, Ms. Scott is President of the Resident Advisory Board and President of the Sheridan II Resident Council.

Ms. **Carol Mayes**, who was elected Commission Vice President, is a long-time resident at the Villages at Parkside. Ms. Mayes was an influential member of the Parkside Design Team which developed HOPE VI plans for Parkside. She is currently President of the Villages at Parkside Resident Council and a member of DHC's Resident Advisory Board.

Letter From Detroit Police Department's Housing Support Section Commander

Jeffries' Residents Stop Burglaries in Area

Thanks to the assistance of the Jeffries community, 13th precinct, Investigative Operations Section (IOS). Crime Analysis Officer Viper 09 was able to arrest several juveniles for a rash of breaking and enterings in the Jeffries. Our hats are off to all that assisted the Housing Support Division in solving this problem. Currently, no breakins have been reported in this area.



Commander Robert Dunlap

Newton Security Assists Lost 12-Year-Old

Thanks should go out to the security professionals at Newton Security who detained and notified the Housing Support Section of a twelve-year-old girl wandering near a senior high-rise who was confused and lost. The Housing Support Section transported the girl to Children's Hospital. Through further investigation, Viper 02 was able to identify and locate the child's grandmother and the young lady was released to her custody. Our hats are off to Newton Security.

Residents Report Crime At Diggs And End Drug Trafficking

Our hats are also off to the residents of the Charles C. Diggs, Jr. Homes for their eyes and ears approach in reporting the drug trafficking in their community. Their observations lead to the arrest of several individuals for drug trafficking. "GOOD LOOKING OUT!"

Report crime by calling HSS at 596-6123.